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"Compendiums" which give only the bones, not the life of history. He touches the larger aspects of our history, and describes and discusses them in a clear and illuminative manner. We may be gratified that this little work will tend to impress its readers with a deep and accurate perception of the genius of this American nation and the circumstances and conditions that have so largely shaped its development. Each of the many sections is introduced by a bibliography. The work is a good example of the results of painstaking and thorough research which so many German scholars exemplify in their writings.

**The Cleavage between Eastern and Western Virginia.** By Prof. C. H. Ambler. *American Historical Review*, July, 1910.

In this paper, Prof. Ambler, of Randolph-Macon College, shows a keen appreciation of the geographic differences between transmontane and cismontane Virginia and the marked economic and political differentiation of these two districts largely as a result of their geographic contrasts. Prof. Ambler takes the Blue Ridge as the boundary between the two sections and describes eastern Virginia as a relatively level region with fertile soil, a deeply indented coast line and temperate climate, while western Virginia is described as having a more broken and mountainous or hilly surface, less fertile soil and a more rigorous climate. In the East was the plantation and its concomitant slave system, producing staple crops which found easy shipment at the deeply drowned river valleys of the tidewater region. As a result of the self-sufficing plantation system and the poor transportation facilities, villages and trade centers were not developed. In the West, the small farm operated by individual owners was the rule. Villages were relatively frequent and were centers of trade and influence.

Politically, the two sections were usually antagonistic. In the movement for independence, the western counties led the more conservative East. On national questions, the Piedmont and tidewater country were inclined to be individualistic. The mountain region, with its early need for protection against savages and its subsequent need for facilities to transport its coal and agricultural products, demanded a strong central government.

The author traces the struggle of the West with the East for political equality in the Assembly, a struggle so bitter that, from 1830 to 1850, there was a strong movement for a new commonwealth west of the Blue Ridge. Not until 1850 did the white population in western Virginia outnumber that in eastern Virginia and secure a fair representation in the Assembly. The slavery controversy appears not to have been strongly geographic. The people of western Virginia were in favor of allowing slavery, although the number of slaves was relatively very few. This section had voted against the resolutions of 1798 and the nullification movement, but the final dismemberment of Virginia was upon the question of secession. The mountainous west remained with the North while the Piedmont and Tide Water joined the South.

A geographer, perhaps, would wish that the geographic factors were more adequately described. A concise description of the rolling Piedmont, the smoothly sloping Coastal Plain with its drowned valleys, the maturely dissected plateau in West Virginia separated from the Blue Ridge by the level floored Great Valley, would give the reader a mental picture of the two contrasted regions. The climate of east and west Virginia is characterized respectively as "even" and

"uneven." This fails to convey the contrast between the milder, shorter winters and the shorter frost season of the East and the larger range of temperature, longer winters and longer frost season of the west. F. V. EMERSON.

**Distant Lands**—An Elementary Study in Geography. By H. J. Mackinder, M.A. xvi and 296 pp., 210 ill. and 12 colored maps. 8vo. George Philip & Son, London, 1910.

Professor Mackinder's *Geographical Studies*, of which this is the third, treat the subject in a progressive manner, so that the pupil comes gradually into a knowledge of the whole world. This volume, like the second, is both historical and geographical. There are good maps, many being orographical; and it may be noted that they are up to date, northeast Greenland, for example, having the latest delineation after the results of the Erichsen expedition. Every young student will find approved geography in these books, and there could be no better preparation for the more advanced study of the subject.

**Tropical Medicine, Hygiene, and Parasitology.** A Handbook for Practitioners and Students. By Gilbert E. Brooke, M. A. Cantab., etc. With numerous illustrations, including 26 plates. Small 8vo and 498 pp. Charles Griffin & Co., London, 1908. 12s., 6d.

An important work for the physician or traveler in tropical countries, written by a man of long and varied experience in these fields. There are descriptions of diseases and their treatment, much practical information as to food, exercise, clothing and general hygiene; and a description of mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, etc.; and classifications of animal and vegetable parasites; also a chapter on disinfection, one on the blood, and advice on microscopy and photography, two most valuable assistants in the field of pathology. The author has been successful in his task, which, he remarks, has been a pleasant one.

**Ober-Ammergau and the Passion Play.** A Practical and Historical Handbook for Visitors, by the Rev. E. Hermitage Day, D.D., F.S.A. 96 pp. and 24 illustrations. Small 8vo. A. R. Mowbray & Co., London (1910). Milwaukee, The Young Churchman Co. 45c., parchment.

This little volume, giving a concise and accurate account of the Passion Play, including a description of the village, is most welcome. There is added a synopsis of the play and other data of value to those who are there or who intend to witness the performance. For others, the book will be of interest in its descriptions and will serve as a reference work on the subject.

**El Inglés para Cada Cual.** Con Pronunciación Fonética. Para aprender el Inglés por sí mismo. Por William Chevob. pp. 128. 8vo. E. Marlborough & Co., London, 1909. 1s.

Handbooks of this practical kind for language study are highly useful and enable many to acquire foreign languages. Marlborough & Co. have published a large number of them, including Arabic, Hindustani, Japanese, Tamil, and even Esperanto. Pronunciations in all cases are quite clearly indicated. Any intelligent person may "pick up" a working knowledge of a language through these books.